

WRITING ASSESSMENT
Write your final composition here.

G 23a

Everyone has wishes that they want to come true. My special wish is to hike the Appalachian Trail. I would see beautiful scenery, become tougher, and have a once in a lifetime experience. Grab your backpacks and explore the Appalachian Trail with me!

First of all, I would see beautiful scenery. Majestic mountains rise to the sky, robed in leaves of green. The rocky trails wind past mountain streams and plants in bloom. On either side of the narrow trail, tall trees shade hikers and offer relief from the hot sun. When the trees thin, the trail opens into a window looking out upon rolling hills, towering mountains, and rivers flowing through deep valleys. As night falls, millions of stars pop out above the tree tops, pale paint splatches against the canvas of the night. The beauty of the trail and the vastness of nature creates an awareness inside me, changing my view of the world, and letting me realize how small I am. The beauty of the trail is amazing and life changing.

Additionally, I would become tougher. Hiking for days over rocky areas and through mud strengthens muscle and nerve. Having to eat food sparingly and ration water creates a more patient person back at home. Not showering daily or not being able to use deodorant helps hikers not to focus on their appearance, but on their goals. Having to make so many sacrifices makes hikers less spoiled when they go back to their normal lives. Hiking can make me stronger in my life.

Also, it would be a once in a lifetime experience.

G 23b

Hiking becomes a daily priority. Getting away from the pressures of life and work comes as a much needed vacation. Not often do I get to do something I love for long periods of time. Hiking the Appalachian Trail would change my life and be an experience I'd never forget.

In conclusion, someday I hope to hike the Appalachian Trail. I would see beautiful scenery, become tougher, and have a once in a lifetime experience. Now all I have to do is start working to make this wish come true. Where is your fairy godmother when you need her?

Score Point: 6

This response reflects a high degree of proficiency in expository writing skills. The writer's reasons for wishing to hike the Appalachian Trail (to see beautiful scenery, become tougher, and have a once-in-a-lifetime experience) are specific and thought provoking. The writer employs imagery (majestic mountains rise to the sky robed in leaves of green, the trail opens into a window looking out upon rolling hills, and pale paint splotches against the canvas of the night) to clearly illustrate and develop these reasons. The response is complete and unified.